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prices of foodgrains were still high, the Government ordered the continuance of the Fair Price shops even beyond January 1961. These shops have been functioning continuously since then and the Government have sanctioned their further continuance till the end of December 1961, for the present. These shops will be continued even beyond December 1961, if this is found to be necessary. The Government are also willing to open additional Fair Price shops in any district if there is demand for them. Apart from these fair price shops for rice, there are separate Fair Price shops for distribution of wheat to the general public. These shops get their supplies of wheat from the Regional Director (Food), Madras, at the controlled price of Rs. 14 per maund. The Regional Director (Food), Madras, is also holding some stocks of imported milo. The Collectors of the Districts have been informed that they can arrange for opening of Fair Price shops for distribution of milo also through local traders, if there is a demand for the same in their districts. These are some of the measures taken by this Government at the State level.

4. The problem of stabilising the prices of commodities in a developing economy bristles with difficulties. The Planning Commission has considered this problem in great detail and has discussed in Chapter VII of the Third Five-Year Plan several measures to correct or moderate undesirable price trends. Honourable Members will appreciate that any measure in this regard can be taken up effectively only on an All-India basis.

5. I may, however, submit that unlessthere is a substantial increase in the production of foodgrains and other commodities, there can be no real solution to this problem of rise in prices. The aim of our Plans has been and continues to be to increase the ouptut of foodgrains and other essential commodities to the maximum extent possible.

III.—PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES.

SRI C. R. RAMASWAMY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I, Chairman, Committee on Estimates, present the Report of the Committee on Fisheries Department.

IV.—THE MADRAS STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD BUDGET FOR 1961–62.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now the discussion on the State Electricity Board Budget for 1961–62 will be continued. The hon. Member, Sri M. Kalyanasundaram may now move his amendments.